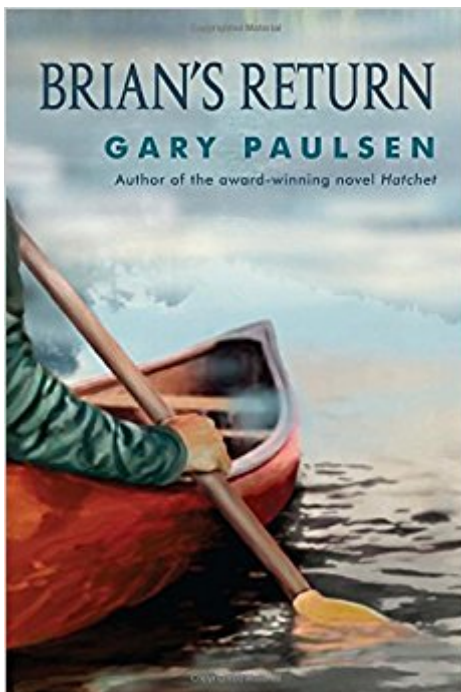


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# Brian's Return (A Hatchet Adventure)



## Synopsis

Brian returns to the wilderness to discover where he truly belongs in this follow-up to the award-winning classic *Hatchet* from three-time Newbery Honor-winning author Gary Paulsen! As millions of readers of *Hatchet*, *The River*, and *Brian's Winter* know, Brian Robeson survived alone in the wilderness by finding solutions to extraordinary challenges. But now that he's back to ordinary life, he can't make sense of high school life. He feels disconnected, more isolated than he did alone in the north woods. How can Brian discover his true path in life, and where he belongs? The answer is to return. Gay Paulsen skillfully explores the meaning of belonging and purpose, and reminds us of a crucial rule of the wilderness: expect the unexpected. "Bold, confident and persuasive." Publishers Weekly, Starred "Paulsen bases many of his protagonist's experiences on his own, and the wilderness through which Brian moves is vividly observed." Kirkus Reviews, Starred Read all the *Hatchet* Adventures! *Brian's Winter* *The River* *Brian's Return* *Brian's Hunt*

## Book Information

Series: A Hatchet Adventure

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## Customer Reviews

A deer in his canoe, a bear attack, a leg stabbed with an arrowhead--it's just another week in the life of 16-year-old Brian Robeson. In his opinion, this beats a date at Mackey's Pizza Den, a fight with a bully, and a video game at the mall any day. After having survived a plane crash and 54 days in the Canadian wilderness several years earlier, Brian can't seem to fit into "civilization." The world of

high school and family life makes no sense anymore. So Brian begins to plan. It's time to return to the woods. This time, though, he makes no plans to come back home. Gary Paulsen, the popular author of many critically acclaimed books for young people and winner of the 1997 Margaret A. Edward Award, has written another sequel to the Newbery Honor Book Hatchet. (The River and Brian's Winter were earlier sequels.) Paulsen's graphic and detailed descriptions of Brian's adventures demonstrate a deep familiarity and connection to the wilderness; and in fact the author has spent much of his life in the bush, living almost entirely off the land. Brian's experiences in nature parallel his growing independence and maturity; readers who don't feel like they "fit in" will easily relate to the young protagonist's search for identity and purity. (Ages 11 and older) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The appearance of yet another sequel to Hatchet may raise a few eyebrows, but Paulsen delivers a vigorous, stirring story that stands on its own merits. Whereas the previous continuations, The River and Brian's Winter, essentially offer more of the same survivalist thrills that have made Hatchet so popular, this novel goes further, posing a more profound question: How does someone go from living on the edge to polite membership in ordinary society? (Paulsen addresses the same theme, albeit more grimly, in his Civil War novel Soldier's Heart.) Here, Brian has returned to his mother's house and can barely reconcile the seemingly arbitrary demands of high school with the life-or-death challenges he surmounted during his months alone in the wilderness. With the aid of a counselor, Brian formulates what had been an almost instinctual, unacknowledged plan to revisit the bush, and this solo trip, not his interlude with his mother, marks the true "return" of the title. The few cliff-hangers are almost beside the point: the great adventure here is the embrace of the wild, the knowledge of life at its most elemental. Aside from its occasional use of YA conventions (e.g., the preternaturally sensitive counselor; jejune rhapsodies over the relevance of Shakespeare), this work is bold, confident and persuasive, its transcendental themes powerfully seductive. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Review - The Brain Sagas by Gary PaulsenI have now finished all five of the Brian Sage books - Hatchet, The River, Brian's Winter, The Hunt. and the epilogue Guts by Gary Paulsen. The

Hatchet is one of three Newberry Awards that Gary Paulsen has earned. Basically the series is one story. The story of an teenage boy who at age 13 is left alone in the North Woods of Canada due to a pilot's fatal heart attack and plane wreck. The first book, The Hatchet tells of the guts, intelligence, patience and luck of a 13 year old boy with little wilderness experience in learning how to live and survive in a remote wilderness. We get a marvelous set of instructions in wilderness lore and living, and a glimpse into an intelligent mind that problem solves, learns and masters a strange world. At the end of this book Brian retrieves a signal radio from the submerged plane and is rescued. In

Brian's Winter is an alternate ending. Brian is not rescued, but manages to learn more and survive into December. We see more of Brian's talents and abilities and new found skills. Here, Brian stumbles into a family of Cree Native Americans manning a trap line, who take him in. Brian flies out on the next supply place. The Cree family consider him like one of the "old people" for Brian is dressed in skins he has captured and his arrows have stone points he has made himself. Yes, some of the story is very fortuitous for Brian, but that does not distract from the lessons of the wilderness and the lessons of life Brian has to learn to survive. The River is a book with Brian returning to the North Woods with a psychologist, Derek, of the military attempting to learn how to teach survival to the military. The man is not schooled in the wilderness at all, and Brian become "the adult" in charge of the adventure. Brian sends the 200 pounds of supplies back with the plane that flew them in, and commences to recreate the world he knew in the first two books. Half the book is a terrifying trip over 100 miles, 3+ days, down a river, its rapids, lakes and swamps, with Derek unconscious on a wilderness made raft. We get a first hand look at the guts necessary to achieve this. Again, they manage to make a trapper's cabin and are rescued. In

Brian's Return we see Brian not fitting back into civilization, 15 - 16 year old's school and society. Brian has adjusted to the Wilderness, and that is the reality he much prefers. Brian takes along a few supplies and does very well. In The Hunt Brian is back in the North Woods learning more woods lore and ways. By now he is nearly a expert. Brian finds an old man, Billy, in his camp one evening. Billy and Brian share a mutual evening of silent communication and while few words are exchanged, Brian gains "medicine." In respect, Billy, leaving camp very early before Brian is awake, leaves a amulet of white tail deer fur and crow's feathers for Brian. Brian recognizes the significance of this and immediately

hangs it around his neck. Shortly thereafter, Brian and a wounded dog find each other. It turns out the dog belonged to the Cree Family Brian had met in *Winter*. Unfortunately, a bear had devastated the cabin and family of the Cree family, killing two members of that family. Brian rescues the wife, buries the dead, and deals with the stoic, bureaucratic officials. Once they leave, Brian hunts and in a wonderful scene - which I will not spoil - kills the bear. *Guts* is stories from Gary Paulsen's life, rough childhood, adventures in Minnesota, Canada, the American South West, Colorado. These episodes Gary wove into *Brian's Story* - a story beautifully and touchingly told. Gary's knowledge and actual experiences gave him the insight to write the Brian Saga. Not only is the woods lore appropriately, accurately and well handled, but the changes that the North Woods induces in Brian are well followed. The books are at once a deep lesson in both survival and in life. We learn much about wilderness living. But we also are treated to the contrasts of life in the city and in the Wilderness. Due a few violent scenes, this series should not be read by youth under 13 or so. Death is a part of life, and life is an endless living with what is there. It takes *guts*, perseverance, and patience, to achieve what Brian achieved, and that is the real message of these books. Life takes Real Guts, lots of perseverance, and lots of patience. The books read very well. The stories are well told. The reading level is at least 8th grade. And for those with an interest in Nature and the Wilderness, be it North Woods, SW desert or ocean, the lessons apply. I found the reading to be extremely enjoyable, and the lessons deep and well taught without being preachy. A great series of books.

My 9 year old LOVED Hatchet so we bought him all the books by Gary Paulsen. He says they all seem to follow the same literary "formula" just in different settings - winter, an island, etc but he loves the outdoors and adventure books so he enjoys them, despite their slight predictability.

After returning to city life, Brian found there was something missing. He returns to the land that has grown into his spirit.

**BRIAN'S RETURN** by Gary Paulsen. **STORY BRIEF:** This is a sequel to and should be read after the "Hatchet." It is the 4th book. Books 2 and 3 are not required before reading this, although I recommend reading them in order if you like Hatchet. In Hatchet 13-year-old Brian was stranded in the Canadian wilderness for 54 days after a plane crash. It was a survival story. Now at age 15 Brian yearns to return. He doesn't feel right living the normal life among other teens. Maybe a third

or more of the book is his time among his peers and making plans to return. The rest of the story is his time in the wilderness. This time is different because he has supplies and equipment which he didn't have in the previous books.

**REVIEWER'S OPINION:**I like thinking about how I live vs. how Brian lived in the wild. It's a good perspective. It may have contributed to my desire to get rid of some of my clutter. I am reminded of a scientist who studied insects - maybe ants - I can't remember. He said people respect nonfiction but they read fiction, which is why he wrote a fictional story about insects. At the end of Brian's Return the author mentions his extensive personal experiences in the wild. He said he knew he wanted to eventually write about them, and that many of the scenes in the Brian books were things that actually happened to him. I'm glad he wrote in a fictional manner rather than a nonfiction/memoir. I probably wouldn't have read that. But I loved reading these things through Brian. I also love reading about justice and revenge. So I enjoyed the scene where a football player bully started something with Brian. But Brian won that fight. The book is shorter than standard novels. The narrator was Peter Coyote who was excellent.

**OTHER BOOKS:**The author wrote many books, but the Hatchet series consists of:

- Hatchet (read first) 5 stars.
- Brian's Winter (read second or third but I prefer second) 3 stars.
- The River (read second or third) 4 stars.
- Brian's Return 3 stars.
- Brian's Hunt

**DATA:**Unabridged audiobook length: 2 hrs and 26 mins. Narrator: Peter Coyote. Swearing language: none. Sexual content: none. Setting: current day upstate New York and the Canadian wilderness. Copyright: 1999. Genre: young adult adventure fiction.

Great book, great service!

my daughter loved it, but not as much as hatchet

This is the fourth book I have read in Gary Paulsen's "Hatchet" series and - amazingly enough - the magic is as strong as ever. I read it on my Kindle and so was unaware that I was coming to the end of this slim book, so that when it ended, I was shocked and disappointed. The place Paulsen chose for the end was absolutely appropriate, but I wanted it to go on and on. I was by no means ready to say goodbye to Brian and to the beautiful and hazardous Canadian north country. At age 75, I am new to Paulsen's books. If I can fall in love with them, I'd say anybody over the age of 8 or 10 will love them, too. njs

I thoroughly enjoyed the book. I read Paulsen's books with struggling students and they too enjoy

the outdoor books. I live in a rural section of the blue ridge mountains where outdoor life and hunting and fishing are very important parts of everyday life.

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